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Discourse

FROM DECLINE TO DISTINCTION: INSIDE ABIA'S BOLD CIVIL SERVICE RENAISSANCE

By Amarachi Uzoukwu



Pastor Eno Jerry Eze (PhD)
CHAIRMAN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

When the country's most influential administrators gather in Umuahia, the Capital City of Abia State, renowned as God's own State from November 30 to December 5 for the 44th National Council Meeting of Civil Service Commissions of the Federation, they will meet a State dramatically different from the one many remember.

For some, the conference is far more than a routine gathering, it is a declaration of rebirth, a bold and public unveiling of a Civil Service undergoing one of the most ambitious transformations in contemporary Nigeria under the able leadership of Governor Alex Chioma Otti. For others, Abia's selection as host is no coincidence, but a national endorsement of the State's sweeping reforms and pragmatic leadership.

For the first time in decades, the conversation around Abia's Public Service has shifted from stagnation to renaissance, one rooted in clear vision, disciplined execution and purposeful innovation.

At the centre of this renaissance is Pastor Dr Eno Jerry Eze, Chairman of the Abia State Civil Service Commission, a Human Resource Professional, governance reform advocate whose blend of administrative rigour is driving initiatives that promote excellence, merit based systems and innovation in Public Service delivery.

Pastor Dr Eno Jerry Eze brings to the Commission a rich blend of HR expertise, governance experience, and pastoral leadership. Her philosophy of purposeful, people-centred leadership is shaping a new culture across the State workforce.

With a background spanning Banking, Oil and Gas, Development Consulting and Church Ministry, Pastor Dr Eno Jerry Eze's vision is to restore the quality of public service through a professional, skilled system fully equipped to support the present administration is gradually yielding the desired dividends.

When Pastor Dr Eno Jerry Eze assumed office as Chairman of the Commission, many observers sensed that a shift was imminent. Few, however anticipated the scale, depth and pace of transformation that would follow. Today, under her leadership and with the political will of Governor Alex Otti, Abia State is emerging as a national model for Civil Service renewal in terms of modernization, accountability, digitally

enabled and fiercely merit-driven.

Her words at a pre-conference briefing were as confident as they were revealing: "Abia has earned this moment. The choice of our state to host the 44th Council Meeting is a national recognition of the reforms we have institutionalised under the leadership of His Excellency, Governor Alex Otti. Our systems are working again, and we are ready to showcase them".

For years, successive administrations grappled with a Civil Service weighed down by redundancy, outdated practices, stalled promotions and a pervasive culture of stagnation. But since the advent of Governor Alex Otti's administration, the narrative has shifted dramatically with the State Civil Service reclaiming its administrative identity.

Dr Eze describes this shift with the clarity of someone who has spent her career studying how institutions succeed and fail.

"The Civil Service is the engine room of any functional state. If it breaks down, governance collapses. Our focus is to rebuild that engine professionally, ethically, and systematically so it can deliver the Governor's vision for a modern, efficient and citizen-centred Abia".

This philosophy guided the creation of the Commission's first comprehensive strategic plan, complete with a new vision, mission, and values system; the foundation upon which the new Abia Public Service stands.

Under her leadership, the Commission now pursues a clear vision: A corps of professional, disciplined and productive Civil Servants dedicated to delivering exceptional service to the people of Abia State, A New Abia and New Ways of Working.

One of the most visible achievements of the Commission is the Digital Revolution in the State's Civil Service and aggressive adoption of technology. Under, the present administration, Abia has moved away from outdated administrative processes and towards a full Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), a first in the State's history.

Perhaps the most significant shift is the Commission's merit-based recruitment of 771 Health Professionals, Consultants, Medical Officers, Nurses, Dental Specialists

FROM DECLINE TO DISTINCTION: INSIDE ABIA'S BOLD CIVIL SERVICE RENAISSANCE

and Therapists selected through a digitalised and transparent Computer-Based Testing (CBT) model where every stage was automated. Candidates wrote tests and received results instantly. Interviews were structured in batches to ensure professionalism. The Civil Service Commission has also recorded notable milestones with the support of the Governor, which include Skills Mapping for the Entire Civil Service. With the groundbreaking exercise underway to document competencies across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), this will feed into the forthcoming Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), which will digitise the entire civil-service lifecycle from recruitment to retirement.

Capacity Building and Professional Development. In partnership with the State Government, the Commission has sponsored Civil Servants for Local and National Training Programmes, including 20 delegates to the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) Conference.

Clearing Backlogs and Strengthening Discipline. The Commission has sorted out the backlog of promotions for 2022, 2023, and 2024 while the process for 2025 is ongoing. The Commission has also closed out lingering disciplinary cases.

Top State in Health Emergency Preparedness: Abia State was recently ranked the most prepared state in Nigeria for Health Emergencies, according to the 2025 SBM Health Preparedness Index report, scoring 26.85, the highest in the country. This achievement reflects the Commission's deliberate investment in human health capital, robust budgetary allocations (14.8% of the state budget), and strong governance systems. It further underscores the effectiveness of the Commission's recruitment and capacity-building efforts and the State's readiness to respond effectively to health crises.

Publication of the Annual Report (1 January – 31 December 2023): For the first time in many years, the Civil Service Commission produced and published a comprehensive Annual Report covering activities from 1 January to 31 December 2023. This report documents the Commission's reforms, recruitment processes, promotions, disciplinary actions, capacity-building efforts, policy updates, and strategic priorities. Its publication has strengthened transparency, accountability, preserving institutional memory and provides stakeholders with clear, data-driven insights into the Commission's work and impact.

Enhancing Partnership and Synergy: The Commission has partnered with other MDAs (the Head of Service, Ministry of Health, Office of the Secretary to the Government) to achieve various initiatives of the present administration. In partnership with Cosharis, Abia has rolled out electronic buses, demonstrating our commitment to innovation and improving public services.

Other key achievements of the Commission Include:

*Abia Leadership Academy (Investing in Generation NEXT).

* **Supporting Ongoing Civil Service Reforms:** The Commission supports ongoing Civil Service reforms, including the process of transitioning from administrative-clerical services and routine manual documentation to strategic HR Management, managing people (talent) and resources to achieve specific goals and objectives.

Beyond the Civil Service, Pastor Dr Eno Jerry Eze also leads Abia's Human Capital Development (HCD) portfolio, an assignment she describes as "the heart of good governance". Her philosophy is simple: Governance succeeds when people are empowered.

Under this approach, the State integrates HCD initiatives across Education, Health, Agriculture, Women Affairs, Poverty Alleviation, the Disability Commission and the Civil Service Commission. Abia now meets National budgetary benchmarks in Education and Health, recruits professionals to strengthen public institutions and ensures prompt payment of salaries and pensions - a sharp break from the past.

The Commission is already mapping out the next chapter of its transformation agenda with the full deployment of the Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), Technology-driven Personnel Management, Enhanced service standards across MDAs. Other elements of the next chapter outlook of the Abia public service include Strengthened performance evaluation and productivity metrics, deeper collaboration with the Office of the Head of Service and continued transition from manual administration to strategic HR Management.

As all 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory gather in Umuahia to participate in the week-long 44th National Council Meeting of Civil Service Commissions of the Federation, it would be an opportunity for delegates to study the fast-evolving model of public service transformation in Abia State. They would encounter a State determined to redefine the meaning of public service in Nigeria. The ongoing reforms reflect not just administrative restructuring, but a deeper cultural shift, a rebirth of purpose, professionalism and accountability.

In many ways, the 44th National Council Meeting is the story of a State reclaiming its pride of place at the National level. It is the story of a people discovering that governance can indeed be made different and better. It is also the story of a woman whose leadership has become synonymous with renewal.

As Abia State steps into national spotlight during the Annual Council Meeting, one message stands clear: Abia is building a modern, motivated and high-performing public service reinforcing Governor Otti's commitment to build "A New Abia". Certainly, the old ways of doing things that had, over the years, stagnated Abia's development have finally given way to a new order of efficiency in management of human and material resources.

Opinion

By: Dr Uche Ogah

Healing A Fractured Nation: Solutions For Nigeria's Security Economy And Unity.



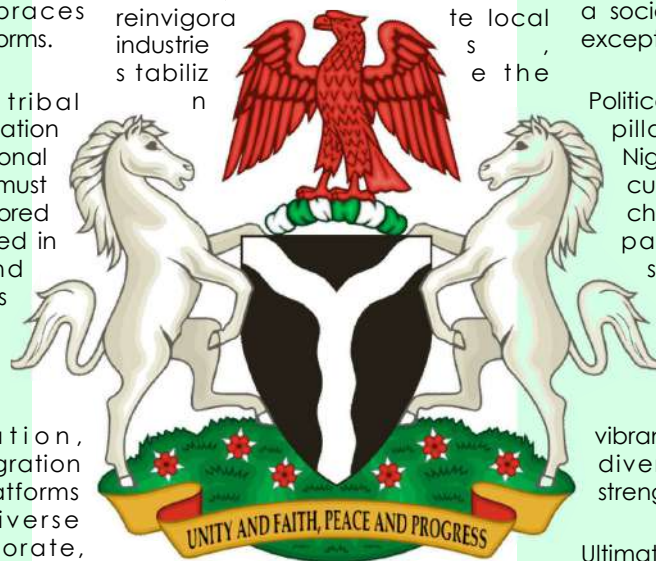
Nigeria stands at a profound crossroads in its national odyssey. The prevailing turbulence from economic instability to insecurity, tribal sentiment, and institutional fragility has tested the resilience of the country's social fabric. Yet within this maze of challenges lies a rare moment for introspection, courageous statesmanship, and a collective renaissance. Nigeria's ascent from this complex chapter depends on how boldly the nation confronts its entrenched weaknesses and how sincerely it embraces sustainable, forward looking reforms.

A deepening culture of tribal sentiment and ethnic polarization continues to undermine national cohesion. To truly heal, Nigeria must transition from an identity anchored in clan and tribe to one rooted in citizenship, patriotism, and shared destiny. This transformation requires overhauling the federal character system to reflect merit and equity, expanding national civic education, strengthening cultural integration programs, and fostering platforms where Nigerians from diverse backgrounds can collaborate, innovate, and build trust. A modern nation cannot flourish on fault lines of suspicion but on bridges of cooperation.

Insecurity remains an omnipresent shadow haunting communities across the federation. From banditry to terrorism, kidnapping, and rural violence, Nigeria's security landscape demands an upgraded, intelligence driven, technologically enabled architecture. State policing, advanced surveillance infrastructure, enhanced welfare for security personnel, and

synchronized intelligence operations are indispensable. Equally critical is addressing the underlying catalysts of conflict including unemployment, land pressure, social injustice, and the unchecked circulation of illegal weapons. Holistic peace building must replace reactive firefighting.

Nigeria's economic challenges have morphed into a systemic strain affecting livelihoods, investments, and national morale. To chart a productive future, the nation must reinvigorate local industries, stabilize the



air through disciplined monetary policies, expand agricultural value chains, and strengthen institutions that drive economic governance. Policy consistency, infrastructural modernization, and a crackdown on leakages in revenue agencies are essential for reviving investor confidence and boosting domestic productivity. When economic governance is coherent, prosperity becomes achievable.

Corruption, deeply embedded in

multiple layers of governance, continues to erode public trust and drain development capacity. A renewed anti corruption crusade must empower institutions to operate autonomously, free from political interference and selective prosecution. Expanding digital governance systems will curtail opportunities for manipulation while enforcing transparency in public expenditure. A nation becomes dignified when accountability is institutionalized and integrity becomes a social expectation rather than an exception.

Political inclusiveness remains a vital pillar for national rejuvenation. Nigeria must cultivate a political culture where competence and character outweigh ethnicity and patronage. Electoral reforms, strengthened internal party democracy, and the active integration of youth and women in governance will enrich policy formulation and leadership quality. A truly vibrant democracy thrives when its diversity becomes a source of strength rather than contention.

Ultimately, Nigeria's future rests on a collective reawakening. Citizens, institutions, and leaders must embrace a new national ethos anchored in unity, discipline, empathy, and shared responsibility. Progress cannot thrive in an atmosphere of division, cynicism, and sectional loyalty. If Nigeria commits to these values with sincerity and consistency, it will not only transcend its current tribulations but emerge as a more stable, equitable, and prosperous nation capable of fulfilling its long awaited potential.

– Dr Uchechukwu Sampson Ogah,
Former Minister of State for Mine & Steel Development

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From The Editorial Suite

With

Jones Nnanna Ike



Abia's Season Of Laughter

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn." — Proverbs 29:2

Humanity today lives in a perilous world—aptly described as a global village marked by international conflicts, poverty, disease outbreaks, floods, and violent crimes. Global politics is increasingly shaped by narrow interests that redefine our shared humanity to favor the most powerful nations, drifting away from ideals that serve the common good of all.



Priscillia Otti, was among the high-profile guests who stayed through the event until the early hours of the morning—an uncommon but telling gesture of solidarity with the people.

The Saturday event itself was organized by the Abia State Government through the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy to honor Bright Chimezie. Earlier, notable Abians such as Paulson

At the national level in Nigeria, the narrative is not much different. While there are concerted efforts at the federal level to stabilize the economy through what experts describe as sound macroeconomic policies, the realities on the ground tell a harsher story. For the average Nigerian, the expected relief has remained elusive. Beyond economic hardship, insecurity continues to mutate—poverty, banditry, jihadist violence, wars, and other forms of crime exact a heavy toll on daily life.

Yet, in a small corner of South-East Nigeria called Abia State, a different story is unfolding.

After more than three decades of mismanagement, corruption, and ineffective leadership, a new chapter began on May 29, 2023, when Governor Alex Otti assumed office with a clear promise to wipe away the historic tears of his people. The slogan was simple yet profound: "Weep no more, help is on the way." True to that promise, Abians stopped weeping from the very first day of his administration.

Thirty months on, it has been smiles—and more smiles.

If there is any doubt, consider this: on Saturday the 13th, Abians and non-Abians alike gathered in colorful attire to celebrate one of the state's cultural icons, Bright Chimezie. The music was electrifying, food and drinks flowed freely, and members of PMAN alongside top comedians filled the hall with laughter. The newly rebuilt and retrofitted Dr. Michael Okpara Auditorium added grandeur to the occasion, amplifying the joy that enveloped the venue. Smiles were everywhere; laughter filled the air; fun was abundant.

This was no coincidence.

Today, events across Abia State follow the same joyful pattern. This happiness is not accidental—it is driven by deep public satisfaction with the works of Governor Otti and his efficient team. A grateful populace is expressing its contentment in laughter.

Just a day earlier, on Friday the 12th, Abia hosted a night of comedy that drew some of Nigeria's finest comedians. Laughter flowed until ribs ached. Remarkably, the First Lady of the State, Her Excellency Mrs.

Kalu, Sam Oluwalanle, Senator Chris Adigwe, and Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe had also been celebrated—reflecting the administration's deliberate commitment to recognizing sons and daughters of the state who have contributed to human civilization in their own ways.

The hall erupted when Governor Otti made a surprise entrance. His presence electrified the atmosphere. If there is a governor with an organic relationship with his people, Governor Otti stands out. From the onset of his administration, it has been smiles, laughter, and shared hope between leader and people.

The peak moment came when he rose to speak. A pin-drop silence fell as the audience leaned in for his words. Then came the announcement: he had just returned from Abuja, where Abia State emerged winner of the 2025 Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Primary Healthcare Leadership Challenge. Abia clinched the South-East zonal prize of USD 500,000. As he shared the news with the ecstatic crowd, laughter and cheers burst forth from faces already glowing with joy.

There are many other reasons Abians are smiling. Like a seasoned long-distance marathoner, Governor Otti continues to surge forward without slowing down. His end-of-year activities speak volumes: timely budget presentation, the launch of a 25-year development plan, commissioning of electric commuter buses to ease transportation challenges, the provision of free transport to bring Abians home for Christmas and above all the timely payment of workers emoluments. As at date nearly all public sector workers in Abia have been paid the December wages plus an extra called the 13th month. This is quite a significant achievement for a people who in the locust years of Abia History most often observed the Christmas and New Year festivities without being paid their salaries. A situation which discerning writers of that era often dubbed as 'black Christmas'.

Today, smiles define the faces of Abians—from the keke driver to the bus driver, from the street vendor to the industrialist. From the Abba shoe manufacturer to the village farmer, it is the same smiles. Governor Otti has lifted a historical burden, wiped off the tears and replaced it with smiles.

Indeed, the timeless biblical truth rings true once more: when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.

ABIA: THE BUDGET OF ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

By Ebere Uzoukwa, PhD



The presentation of Abia's 2026 Appropriation Bill on Tuesday, 25 November 2025, by Governor Alex Otti stands as one of the most defining policy statements of his administration. With a landmark sum of N1.016 trillion, the Budget of Acceleration and New Possibilities signals a bold and deliberate effort to reposition Abia on the path of rapid development, structural transformation and sustained prosperity. It is a budget crafted not for routine governance but for rebuilding, expansion and future shaping.

A central feature of the budget is its unprecedented capital expenditure profile. Governor Otti allocated N811.8 billion, representing 80 percent of the entire budget, to capital projects, a scale that reflects unmistakable intent and strong political will. The recurrent component stands at N204.4 billion or 20 percent, covering expanded personnel obligations and administrative needs. This capital-heavy structure, one of the highest in the country, demonstrates a firm resolve to move Abia permanently from stagnation to productivity.

Education remains at the heart of the governor's development philosophy. The sector receives N203.2 billion, amounting to 20 percent of the total budget. This allocation will sustain salaries for fifteen thousand teachers, support the construction of seventeen new model schools, establish three technical colleges and upgrade ICT laboratories and staff quarters in more than one hundred schools. Tertiary institutions, including Abia State University, Ogonnaya Onu Polytechnic and the College of Education Arochuku, will receive N52.8 billion for salaries, hostels, lecture theatres and critical facility upgrades.

The health sector also receives significant attention with an allocation of N149.7 billion. The governor plans to renovate seven general hospitals, upgrade twenty three primary health centres, equip ABSUTH with essential medical facilities and expand manpower development. These interventions align with the governor's previous achievements, which include the restoration of key hospitals, refurbishment of two hundred primary health centres, recruitment of seven hundred and seventy one health workers and increased enrolment in the state health insurance scheme, now at one hundred and twenty thousand residents.

Infrastructure remains a major pillar of the 2026 fiscal plan, with N169.3 billion dedicated to extensive road development across all zones. Key roads include the Umuahia Ikot Ekpene Road, Ahiaeke Okwuta Bende Road, Nkata Amaeke Road, Agbo Umueze Mbom Road, and the Umuoji, Mgboko and Amauzukwu Mbom corridors. These routes are strategic economic arteries that will unlock commerce, reduce travel time and strengthen logistics for citizens and businesses.



Public transportation receives N11.1 billion, including N6 billion for the procurement of eighty additional electric buses and the completion of modular transport terminals. This investment strengthens the governor's broader modernisation drive aimed at improving mobility, reducing emissions and

ABIA: THE BUDGET OF ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AND NEW POSSIBILITIES



establishing a more efficient urban transportation system.

Energy remains another signature priority. The governor announced that Abia has acquired electricity distribution assets outside the Aba ring fenced zone, reinforcing the state's ambition for energy independence. With the full implementation of the Abia State Electricity Law and the establishment of ASERA, the administration is laying the foundation for a competitive, reliable and self-sustaining power ecosystem.

Governor Otti also reviewed the 2025 fiscal year, highlighting achievements that provide a credible foundation for the 2026 budget. These include over six hundred kilometers of roads built or rehabilitated since 2023, a doubling of school enrolment following the introduction of free basic education, the recruitment of more than five thousand teachers with another four thousand to follow, and a projected IGR of N100 billion by year end. Abia's emergence as the most prepared state for health emergency response in Nigeria further underscores the depth of ongoing reforms.

The state projects a total revenue of N607.2 billion, comprising N223.4 billion in internally generated revenue, N83.2 billion from FAAC, N67.1 billion VAT, N26.5 billion grants and N168 billion from other federal inflows. This leaves a deficit of N409 billion, which the governor insists will be financed strictly through concessional loans reserved solely for capital projects. His categorical assurance that not a penny will be borrowed to fund recurrent expenditure underscores a disciplined approach to public finance and a decisive break from unsustainable practices of the past.

The 2026 budget therefore stands as a strategic instrument for statewide transformation. It accelerates development, unlocks new possibilities and reinforces the governor's commitment to building an Abia where institutions work, where infrastructure supports growth and where every community feels the presence and impact of government.

Governor Otti's vision for a modern, productive and forward looking Abia continues to take clearer shape. With this budget, he sets a bold and confident pace for 2026 and strengthens the belief that Abia's best years are no longer aspirational but emerging.

Dr. Ebere Uzoukwa is the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Abia State on Public Affairs.



ABIA: THE BUDGET OF ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AND NEW POSSIBILITIES



Abia State Governor, Dr Alex Otti, OFR, has signed into law and officially unveiled the Abia State 25-Years Development Plan with assurances of its sustainability over the period of the plan.

Unveiling the plan aimed at lasting from 2025 to 2050, at the International Conference Centre, Umuahia, the State Chief Executive, said that, the plan is a holistic development framework upon which the State's policy direction and resource allocation outlook will be evaluated.

"The 25-Years Abia State Development Plan, which we have signed into law and unveiled, is a dynamic document that captures our resource advantages as a State, our current position on the development ladder, and where we hope to be in the next 25 years as we commit ourselves to certain decision pathways with respect to public sector spending, effective governance paradigm, process strengthening and consistency in building the competencies of our people and institutions", Gov. Otti stated.

The Governor underscored that what his administration is doing is not completely new, but bothers on planning, noting that the former document was reviewed to meet today's reality and assured of its sustainability, given the fact that it has a legal backing.

"There was a 30-year development plan. But the advent of COVID and the change in the direction of the government, both at the centre and at the sub-national level, have combined to render that document invalid.

The Governor, who assured of the sustainability of the plan explained why some development plans fail, and maintained that the 25-Years Development Plan would not fail because of the legal backing, having been passed into law by the State House of Assembly and assented by the Executive Governor.

"A number of reasons have made development plans to fail. The first is the absence of a legislative framework to instil discipline in the execution.

"The second is the inability to realistically anticipate bombs and outline mitigation measures, or as we see all the time, the reckless pursuit of private interests by political actors and the absence of a suitable framework for calling them to order.

"All these pitfalls have been carefully noted, and in line with our determination to achieve the priority targets as captured in the plan, we have anchored our aspirations on a firm legislative foundation through the State House of Assembly.

"It's going to be very, very difficult for certain administrations to evade it, simply because it has passed the scrutiny of not only SBAS and development partners, but the State House of Assembly. So, what I did moments ago was to sign this document into a law" Gov. Otti stated.

Governor Otti commended members of the State Economic Management Team for the brilliance of their work and the commitment to getting the plan put together in good time and members of the Abia Global Economic Advisory Council for providing important directions, guiding the team and enriching the document with their extensive knowledge. He also appreciated the roles played by some development partners including, the UNDP, PIND and others.

In his goodwill message, the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, Ms Elsie Attafuah, represented by Ms Maureen Okoro said that the event signals the State's determination to pursue a long-term, coherent, people-centered development pathway that prioritizes sustainability, inclusion and shared prosperity.



The UNDP commended the visionary leadership of Governor Alex Otti for embarking on the ambitious exercise, noting that the development plan aligns strongly with UNDP's core development principles, evidence-based planning, inclusive growth, sustainable finance and human development, and assured of its support to execute the plan.

Also Speaking, the representative of Partnership Initiative In Niger Delta (PIND), Mr Chuks Ofolue noted that the 25-Years Development Plan which is a review of the 30-years development plan of the previous administration is more focused, adding that the document will serve as a guide for subsequent administrations.

The President of Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA), Mazi Jude Nwosu said that the plan represents government's commitment to transforming the State into a fleet of progress, innovation, prosperity and vibrant economic hub in West Africa, and applauded Governor Otti for the bold step.



The unveiling ceremony, which attracted many dignitaries and top government officials, featured the signing of the 25-Years Development Plan into law by Governor Alex Otti in company of the leadership of the Abia State House of Assembly.

GOV. OTTI LAUNCHES FIRST STATE-OWNED ELECTRIC BUS SERVICE

....Offers Free Ride To Commuters



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, on Monday officially launched the First Phase of the Abia Green Shuttle Electric Bus Service, with the unveiling of 20 Electric Buses for public transportation as part of the State's drive towards sustainable, efficient and modern urban transportation.

The buses, which are part of the State's effort to reduce carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly transportation, will offer free rides to commuters starting tomorrow and are expected to ply major routes in the State including Umuahia, Aba, Umunneochi, Ohafia, Ukwu LGAs

Governor Otti who announced this at the commissioning ceremony, held at the International Conference Center, Umuahia, described the initiative as a bold step towards the future and a deliberate move to align the State with global climate and sustainability goals.

The Governor said the project, which began as a plan to procure Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses, was deliberately upgraded to Electric vehicles in line with the world's transition towards net-zero emissions.

He explained that although CNG buses are cleaner, they still emit carbon, which prompted the State to "leapfrog" into full electrification.

"Today is a special day for us in Abia State as it defines our movement towards the future. Like has been explained, the journey started with Compressed Natural Gas powered buses. But then we had in mind the target that the world is headed towards and that is net zero emission.

"We knew that even though CNGs are cleaner gases, they are also not without emissions. And we thought we should leapfrog and go to electric buses", Governor Otti added.

The Governor disclosed that the procurement process encountered

challenges, including the need to redesign the buses to make them compliant with the needs of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

"At some point we realised that they were not PWD compliant and we had to start afresh to ensure that they were built in. And I can announce today that the 20 electric buses here are PWD compliant", he said.

Governor Otti further revealed that the project was nearly stalled due to delays in the delivery of charging infrastructure after the vessel conveying them suffered a mid-sea accident, but said the State successfully improvised.

"So we now had to put on our thinking caps and somehow we found a solution.

And today we have charging stations here. We are expecting a few more", he stated.

According to him, the buses will begin scheduled operations immediately, with free rides for commuters until January, as part of efforts to familiarise residents with the new system.

"For this period between tomorrow and sometime in January these buses will take

our citizens to and through free of charge. You get into the bus stations, you queue up. Once the bus arrives it is first come first served", Governor Otti said.

The Governor who warned that misconduct would be tracked through onboard surveillance cameras, also announced plans to install public charging stations across Aba, Umuahia and other parts of the State.

He encouraged residents to consider Electric vehicles as a cheaper long-term transport option.

The Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who commissioned the buses, described the initiative as "extraordinary" and timely, given the global fight against pollution and climate change.



Gov. Otti Launches First State-Owned Electric Bus Service

She congratulated Governor Otti and his team for what she described as visionary leadership, noting that the initiative would contribute to cleaner air and healthier cities.

According to her, although Africa contributes only about three per cent of global carbon emissions, the continent must still play its part in promoting a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

"One of the biggest things we suffer from in the world is the problem of pollution and climate change.

"Even though Africa contributes only three percent of global carbon emissions, yet all of us have to contribute to a better climate for the world", she said.

Okonjo-Iweala expressed optimism that the project would mark the beginning of environmentally friendly transport reforms in Abia.

"So the fact that in Abia State, we are doing something extraordinary in bringing these buses is just a delightful thing. I hope that this is just the beginning and we will go from strength to strength", the WTO boss said.

She congratulated the State Government on the achievement and urged it to sustain the momentum in climate-smart development initiatives.

In his remarks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Coscharis Group, Dr. Cosmos Maduka, said Abia has provided National leadership by becoming the first State to officially launch Electric Buses for public transportation in Nigeria.

"This afternoon, Abia State is the first official State that is launching Electric Buses into this country. And there's no doubt that other States are going to follow suit", he said.

Dr Maduka revealed that his company initially proposed CNG buses to the State Government but commended Governor Otti's insistence on Electric Buses.

"We did everything we can to convince him to go CNG, but he insisted it would be electrification or nothing. it's not a dream anymore, it's a reality", Dr Maduka said.

The COSCHARIS boss, highlighted the advanced features of the buses, including air-conditioning, surveillance cameras and onboard charging ports, stressing that the service was designed for all social classes.

He predicted that the buses would gradually reduce reliance on aTricycles and Motorcycles in the State's urban centres, assuring that the Abia Green Shuttle Bus Service no discomfort.

Earlier in his remarks, the Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Chimezie Ukegbu, described the launch as a historic milestone in the State's transport evolution and attributed its success to Governor Otti's leadership.

"This event marks a historic milestone in our journey. This initiative is a direct product of his (Governor Otti's) forward-thinking agenda and his resolve to reposition Abia State as a hub of innovation, sustainability and inclusive development", the Commissioner said.

He noted that beyond environmental benefits, the electric bus programme would deliver long-term economic benefits including job creation , skills development among other social gains.

"Electric buses are more cost effective to operate and maintain in the long run. This programme also opens new opportunities for skills development, technical training and job creation", he added.

The Commissioner assured residents that the Ministry of Transport would continue to expand the initiative and work closely with Transport Union's and other Stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition.

"This is not an end but a beginning. It is about safe routes, cleaner air, modern mobility and a future we can all be proud of", Ukegbu said.

The ceremony featured and a test ride around the city of Umuahia led by Governor Otti, to signal the official commencement of the Abia Green Shuttle Electric Bus Service.



2ND

ABA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

By: Nwokoma Blessing & Kelechi Kanu



The Aba Maga Mall situated along Aba- Port Harcourt express road, Osisioma in ABIA state was a beehive of commercial activities for a solid 10 days (5th-- 14th December 2025) courtesy of governor Alex Otti resolute efforts and determination in redefining the commercial and potential landscape of Abia state.

The fair which had the theme " SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM, UNLOCKING ABIA'S POTENTIALS brought together exhibitors across Nigeria.

Declaring the fair open governor Otti ably represented by the former Secretary to the state government, Prof. Kenneth Kalu

reiterated that the administration remains committed to creating a business-friendly environment that supports free trade, innovation, and commercial expansion. He described the theme as apt, as it synchronized with the ongoing massive and visible reforms aimed at boosting investor confidence and enhancing economic opportunities across the state. He wished exhibitors and participants a productive and rewarding fair full of opportunities that will provide network, collaboration, exchange of ideas and explore new business experience.

The Commissioner for Trade and Commerce ABIA state Dr. Mrs Salome Obiukwu, while welcoming the exhibitors and

participants stated that the fair serves as a platform to ,showcase innovations creativity , enterprise, and the resilience of Abians. She eulogised Governor Otti's administration for their commitment in unlocking the potentials of Abia people by supporting local industries , attracting investors and promoting the Aba- made brand across Nigeria and beyond. She highlighted that lack of wider publicity, short notices and unwillingness of some exhibitors to participate affected the fair to an extent but promised that such lapses will be corrected in future ones

The President of the Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA), Mazi Jude Nnamdi Nwosu, described Abia State of today as the safest business and entrepreneurial destination in Nigeria. He stressed that this is possible courtesy of the enhanced security architecture put in place by the present administration, which he said has boosted investor confidence and made the state more attractive for business operations.

Also Speaking ,Ide Hyacinth Nnabude, the AIMATA chairman thanked the governor Dr Alex Otti and his team for the wonderful initiative to bring Abia state into international business limelights which in turn will have a ripple positive effects on the economic strata of the state and business community.

2ND

ABA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

By: Nwokoma Blessing & Kelechi Kanu



Also Hon Chief Mumachim Ejim.(Okwuoto), the chairman Ngwa Road market (Ahia Ohuru) expressed overwhelming joy, saying that Abia under Governor Alex Otti is on a faster lane of development in all fronts and that Abians and indeed the business community is solidly behind the government and will always contribute their quota in moving Abia forward

The Deputy Governor, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu during the closing ceremony thanked his Boss Gov. Alex Otti for his clear vision to develop Abia State and make it viable economically and thanked the various committees for a job well done. He also praised the support of participants and exhibitors in ensuring that the 2nd edition of Aba trade Fair succeeded. He pledged that the next edition will be all encompassing, bigger and better.

Exhibitors like ANPC, CHECKBEST INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, DABERECHI E. SPICE, EMM ITALO ENTERPRISE, MECON GLOBAL ENT., SHIGO HUB, ALL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (ABIA STATE CHAPTER), TOPRANK INSECTICIDE, PRECIOUS KIDDIES HUB, MD NWAKANMA NIG. LTD and many other Corporate Organisations exhibited their products at the fair. Abia State Newspapers and Publishing Corporation ,The Publisher's of National Ambassador Newspaper and Magazine had a fairly prosperous stand at the Fair which was manner by a strong crew comprising of Mr Nwokoma Blessing, Onyema Chinaza, Onyinyechi Ibem, Grace Uzoigwe, Munachim Alozie and Augustine Egbulefu. There were also traditional dancing groups and Djs that thrilled and entertained while the fair lasted.



ABIA JUDICIARY FLAGS OFF 2025/2026 LEGAL YEAR

By Kelechi Eme-Ogidi & Chinyere Nwachukwu



The Abia State Judiciary has formally marked the opening of the 2025/2026 Legal Year with the theme "Reforming Abia State Justice Sector in the Digital Era".

The opening ceremony, which took place recently in Umuahia, began with a special thanksgiving service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Chapel, Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Umuahia. It continued with an inspection of the Guard of Honour by the Chief Judge of Abia State, Hon. Justice Lilian Abai, and a special court session held at the High Court Complex, Umuahia.

The event, which had the Governor of Abia State, His Excellency Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, as the Special Guest of Honour, drew together judges, magistrates, lawyers, traditional rulers, and top government officials to mark the beginning of another

judicial calendar.

In his address, Governor Otti congratulated members of the Bar and Bench on the commencement of the new legal year, commending the judiciary for its steadfastness. He assured that the executive arm of government would continue to partner with and support the judiciary to ensure efficient and timely justice delivery in the state.

"The judiciary, as the third arm of government, has demonstrated that it can perform its duties without interference," the Governor said.

"I am happy to support you in the area of digital transformation. I have already approved a request from the Honourable Attorney-General to digitize the entire judiciary and move away from the days of carrying files", he added.

Governor Otti announced that the 17 court halls being constructed by the state government across the local government areas would soon be commissioned. He disclosed that the facilities are digitally enabled, equipped with solar or renewable energy, air-conditioned auditoria, and other modern amenities befitting a 21st-century court.

He further revealed plans to commence the construction of Judicial Complexes in Umuahia and Aba, each with 15 court halls, 1,000-seater auditoria, and high-speed internet connectivity to support ongoing justice reforms in the state.

ABIA JUDICIARY FLAGS OFF 2025/2026 LEGAL YEAR



In her remarks, Hon. Justice Lilian Abai, Chief Judge of Abia State, described the new legal year as "a time to take stock, rededicate ourselves to the noble duty of justice, and reaffirm the judiciary as the lamp that lights the path of fairness, the fortress that protects the law, and the steady hand that upholds democracy."

Elaborating on the theme, Justice Abai noted that the digital revolution has transformed every aspect of life, including governance. She emphasized that while the law must remain stable, it must also evolve to meet new realities.

"Delay too often casts a shadow over justice, eroding public trust and testing the patience of those who seek fairness," she said.

"Reform is not only necessary but already within our grasp. With vision, innovation, and commitment, we can restore the speed, fairness, and integrity that justice demands."

The Chief Judge envisioned an Abia judiciary where lawyers can file cases online, litigants can track their cases remotely, and judges can access files digitally.

"The digital era is here. Let us seize it, shape it, and ensure that in Abia State, justice will always be swift, fair, and within the people's reach. Justice in Abia will no longer move at the pace of paper but at the speed of trust and technology," she declared.

Earlier, during the thanksgiving service, The Very Rev. Ernest Onyeukwu, Chaplain of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Chapel, appreciated God for life and health to begin a new legal year. Preaching from Acts 17:16 on the topic "Are You Not Provoked by Our Present-Day Justice System?" he challenged judicial officers to confront the flaws in Nigeria's justice system and uphold the values of integrity and fairness.

Rev. Onyeukwu commended the judiciary for consistently seeking divine guidance and described honest and upright officers as "men and women of honour who will be distinguished for doing right." Special prayers were offered for the Chief Judge and her team.

The ceremony also featured goodwill messages from the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, the Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Aba Branche,



ABIA JUDICIARY FLAGS OFF 2025/2026 LEGAL YEAR

the Magistrates' Association of Nigeria, Abia State Chapter, the Association of Judges of Customary Courts of Nigeria (AJUCCON), and the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN). In his remarks, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Hon. Ikechukwu Uwana, SAN, described the theme as timely and relevant.

"There is no gainsaying that we must infuse technology into all our activities," he said.

Our traditional paper-based system, though venerable, cannot cope with the volume and speed required in modern governance. The digital era compels us to rethink how justice is delivered to lawyers, litigants, investors, and citizens alike.

He urged all stakeholders to embrace digital reforms not as a novelty but as a means of fulfilling their sacred oath to make justice accessible, impartial, and timely.

"Let us resolve in this legal year to build a justice system worthy of the people's trust and the Constitution's mandate and leave behind not only a reformed Judiciary but also a stronger Abia state where Justice is indeed, shield of the weak and the guide of the strong, Uwana added.



OGBONNAYA ONU POLYTECHNIC HOLDS 22ND CONVOCATION



By Onyinyechi Ibem, Aba

Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba, held its 22nd convocation ceremony in grand style, graduating 2,138 students across various academic disciplines. The event marked a major milestone in the institution's renewed pursuit of academic excellence, infrastructural development, and administrative stability.

In his address, the Rector, Dr. Christopher K. Okoro, expressed deep satisfaction with the progress made in the last 22 months of his administration. He noted that the Polytechnic had held only three convocation ceremonies in the past 14 years; a reality he described as "an unrecognizable departure from the past."

"What we have today is clearly an unrecognizable situation from when this institution could not hold a convocation ceremony for more than 10 years at a stretch," Dr. Okoro said. "We therefore have every reason to thank God that the ugly trend has been reversed for good. Your Excellency, the story we celebrate today cannot be told without you, our dear Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti."

Dr. Okoro, who assumed office nearly two years ago, recalled that the 2025 graduating class was the first set he personally matriculated and the first to convoke under the institution's new name; Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic. He highlighted several reforms implemented under his leadership, including upgraded teaching and learning facilities, transparent examination systems, strengthened lecturer-student relations free from exploitation, and significant improvements in infrastructure.

He commended Governor Otti for approving long-stalled staff promotions and clearing accumulated salary arrears, actions he said restored staff morale and improved

productivity.

Delivering the keynote address titled "Education as a Responsibility," the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to prioritizing education as the cornerstone of the state's development agenda. He stressed that no society can achieve sustainable progress without meaningful investment in human capital.

Otti lauded the management of the Polytechnic for the reforms that have repositioned the institution, promising continuous government support to ensure it remains a leading center for technical education in Nigeria.

A special award was presented to the late Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu in recognition of his contributions to the institution and the remarkable progress recorded since the Polytechnic was renamed in his honor. The award was received on his behalf by Mrs. Chinaye Onu. According to the institution's management, many individuals and organizations, both state and federal, now seek partnership with the school because of the legacy of Dr. Onu.

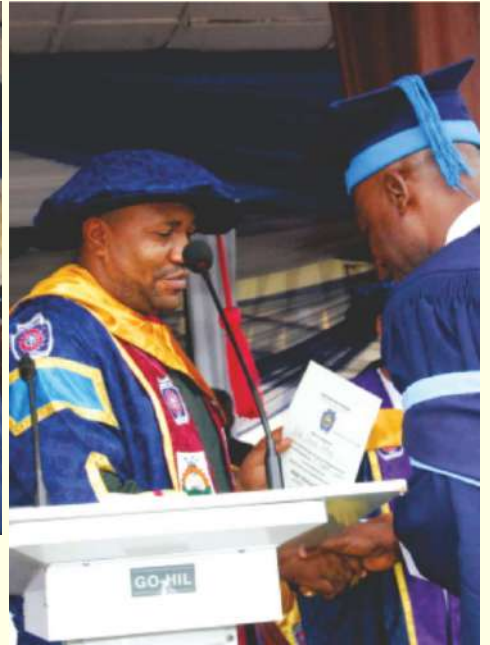
The ceremony attracted numerous dignitaries, including commissioners, senior government officials, and other prominent personalities. Among them were the Commissioner for Information, Sir Okey Kalu, and the General Manager of the Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation, Hon. Jones Ike, who commended the Polytechnic for its transformation and renewed visibility.

The event also featured celebrations by graduates, staff, and guests, marking a new chapter in the institution's journey toward excellence.

PICTORIALS
OGBONNAYA ONU POLYTECHNIC HOLDS 22ND CONVOCAION



OGBONNAYA ONU POLYTECHNIC HOLDS 22ND CONVOCAATION



PICTORIALS
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THE WALK AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

By: Favour Okorie



The Abia State Ministry of Women Affairs has once again demonstrated strong resolve and resilience in the successful conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The campaign, which commenced in November, culminated on December 10, 2025, with a series of impactful awareness and advocacy activities held across Umuahia and Aba.

The programme, themed "Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls," was designed to raise public awareness, foster stakeholder collaboration, and strengthen collective efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, with particular emphasis on emerging digital threats.

A major highlight of the campaign was the Walk Against Gender-Based Violence, organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs in partnership with the Abia State Police Command in Umuahia and Aba. The walk attracted wide participation from women, school children, civil society organizations, and community stakeholders, creating a powerful public display of unity and commitment to ending GBV. The road walk served as an effective sensitization platform, conveying clear messages such as "Say No to Gender-Based Violence" and encouraging community ownership of the fight against abuse.

At the closing ceremony in Umuahia, the Wife of the Governor of Abia State, Mrs. Priscilla Otti, reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Abia State Government to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls, including digital violence. Her message, delivered by the Wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Adaeze Emetu, highlighted the government's bold and strategic interventions aimed at addressing the rising challenge of digital violence. She announced plans for the inauguration of a High-Level Gender-Based Violence Committee, to be chaired by Mrs. Priscilla Otti, by January, as well as the establishment of a state-of-the-art Sexual Assault Referral Center in Aba to enhance survivor support and response services.

In her address, the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Dr. Maureen Aghukwa, emphasized that Gender-Based Violence must no longer be treated as a private family issue but recognized as a societal challenge requiring collective action. She commended the Abia State Government for its sustained support to the Ministry and partner agencies in strengthening prevention, response, and prosecution mechanisms across the state.



THE WALK AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



The programme also featured robust educational and advocacy sessions, including two expert lectures on Gender-Based Violence, which offered practical insights into prevention strategies, legal frameworks, and survivor support systems. A deeply moving testimony by a GBV survivor further underscored the importance of timely intervention, as she publicly expressed gratitude to the Abia State Governor and his wife for the support that helped her rebuild her life, offering hope and encouragement to other survivors.

Goodwill messages were delivered by key stakeholders, including the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). NAWOJ reaffirmed its commitment to promoting safe digital spaces and responsible media practices, while calling for zero tolerance for online abuse. The association pledged to continue leveraging the power of the media to educate, advocate, and protect the rights of women and girls. FIDA, on its part, stressed the need to strengthen legal frameworks, improve access to justice, and promote community-driven prevention strategies to eliminate all forms of GBV.

The Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) Women Wing also participated actively, joining the awareness walk and providing strong moral and institutional support. An interactive awareness session educated the public on recognizing, reporting, and preventing GBV, while encouraging bystanders to speak out against abuse.

The 16 Days of Activism in Abia State concluded on a strong and hopeful note, with renewed commitments from government, security agencies, civil society organizations, the media, and the general public to sustain advocacy, strengthen protection mechanisms, and uphold justice and dignity for women and girls. The closing ceremony reinforced a shared resolve that Gender-Based Violence, in any form, has no place in Abia State, and that ending both digital and physical violence against women and girls remains a collective responsibility.

HEALTH TIPS

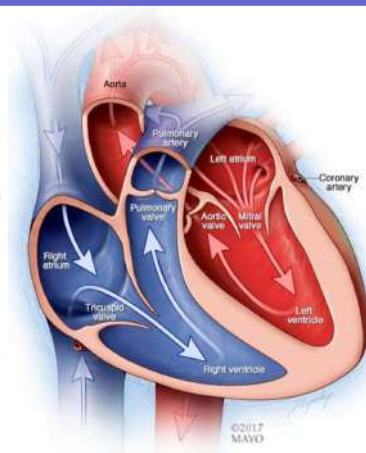
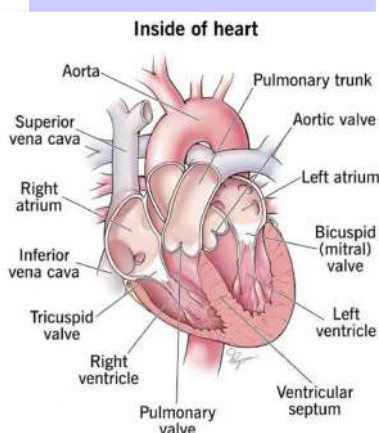
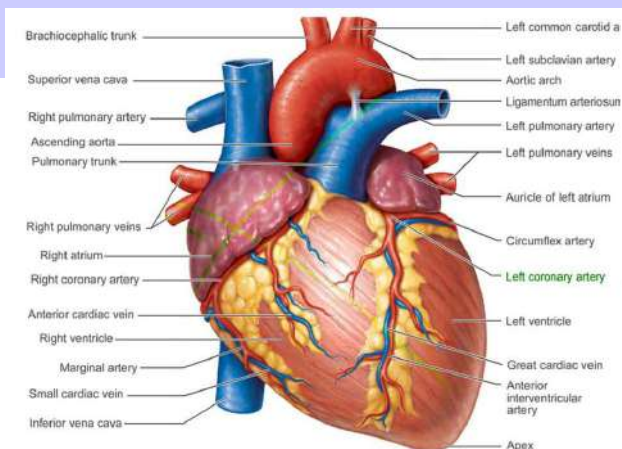


By: Prince Blessing Lazarus

Signature
 2347012269222
 Bliss Exclusive Int'l

The Heart

Unlocking Their Secrets



ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

The **HEART** is a vital organ, muscular, hollow, and cone-shaped -located in the thoracic cavity that pumps blood throughout the body, supplying oxygen and nutrients to tissues and organs. It's about the size of a fist and is located in the thoracic cavity. The heart has four chambers: the left and right atria, and the left and right ventricles. It beats around 100,000 times per day, pumping approximately 2,000 gallons of blood.

The heart starts developing very early in the embryo, around day 18 to 19, and begins beating by about day 21 or 22. The four chambers and four valves are enclosed in a protective sac called the pericardium. It works through coordinated electrical impulses and muscle contractions, ensuring efficient blood flow.

Cultural Definition:

In many cultures, the heart is considered the seat of the soul or spirit. a powerful symbol of love that transcends its physical function, representing the essence of who we are. a source of life, emotions and courage.

Language Roots:

English: heorte, Latin: cor, Greek: kardia
 All meaning heart,

FUNCTIONS

The heart is divided into the right and left sides, each with an atrium and a ventricle. The right side handles deoxygenated blood, pumping it to the lungs, while the left side pumps oxygenated blood to the rest of the body. The heart's conduction system, including the sinoatrial node, and Purkinje fibers, ensures that the heartbeat is rhythmic and coordinated. Plus, the heart is incredibly adaptable, capable of adjusting its rate and strength of contractions based on the body's needs.

The Heart Symbolizes:

Love
 Compassion
 Courage
 Emotion
 Spiritual depth

The red, stylized heart icon has become a universal symbol of passion and affection.

Heart-Brain Connection

Research suggests the heart and brain have a complex, bidirectional relationship. The heart sends signals to the brain, influencing emotions,

cognition, and behavior. The heart also produces hormones, like oxytocin, which is often called the "love hormone."

HEART HEALTH

A healthy heart is the foundation of overall well-being. Factors that influence heart wellness: Diet, Exercise, Sleep, Stress levels Genetics

HEART-HEALTHY HABITS

1. Eat balanced foods
2. Stay hydrated
3. Exercise 30m daily
4. Manage stress
5. Sleep 7-8 hours
6. Avoid smoking
7. Limit processed foods
8. Monitor BP
9. Stay active
10. Laugh often — it reduces stress



According to research eating a heart-healthy diet is good for your heart, you might wonder if taking vitamins and other nutritional supplements that are touted as heart-healthy further protects you from cardiovascular disease.

-“The bottom line is, we don’t recommend supplements to treat or to prevent cardiovascular disease,”

-Edgar R. Miller III, M.D., Ph.D.,



COMMON CARDIOVASCULAR CONDITIONS

Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death globally—yet most of them are preventable. Maintaining a healthy heart is essential.

1. Hypertension: High blood pressure that can lead to heart disease.
2. Coronary Artery Disease: Narrowing or blockage of coronary arteries.
3. Heart Failure: When the heart can't pump enough blood.
4. Arrhythmia: Irregular heartbeat or abnormal rhythm.
5. Atrial Fibrillation: Irregular heartbeat in the upper chambers.
6. Heart Valve Problems: Issues with heart valves, like stenosis or regurgitation.
7. Cardiomyopathy: Diseases affecting heart muscle.
8. Myocardial Infarction: Heart attack due to blocked blood flow.
9. Angina: Chest pain or discomfort due to reduced blood flow.
10. Stroke: Interrupted blood flow to the brain, often linked to heart issues.

HEART DISEASE TRIGGERS

1. Smoking: Damages blood vessels and increases heart disease risk.
2. Excessive Salt: Increases blood pressure.
3. Added Sugars: Contributes to obesity and heart disease.
4. Unhealthy Fats: Trans fats and saturated fats increase cholesterol.
5. Physical Inactivity: Lack of exercise weakens heart health.
6. Stress: Chronic stress raises blood pressure and heart risk.
7. Poor Sleep: Inadequate sleep increases heart disease risk.
8. Excessive Alcohol: Heavy drinking raises blood pressure and heart issues.
9. Processed Meats: High in salt and preservatives, bad for heart.
10. Air Pollution: Poor air quality increases heart disease risk.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECTING HEART HEALTH

1. Heart Failure: The heart becomes unable to pump enough blood.
2. Coronary Artery Disease: Arteries narrow or block, reducing blood flow.
3. Heart Attack: Blood flow to the heart is blocked.
4. Stroke: Blood flow to the brain is interrupted.
5. Arrhythmias: Irregular heartbeats can occur.
6. Cardiomyopathy: Heart muscle disease can develop.
7. Hypertension: High blood pressure can damage heart and vessels.
8. Atherosclerosis: Plaque build-up in arteries can lead to blockages.

SUPERFOODS FOR A STRONG HEART

Top Diets

1. DASH Diet
2. Mediterranean Diet

Heart-Boosting Foods

1. Oily fish (salmon, mackerel)
2. Leafy greens
3. Whole grains
4. Legumes
5. Nuts & seeds
6. Avocados
7. Berries
8. Olive oil
9. Tomatoes
10. Garlic
11. Dark chocolate (in moderation)
12. Green tea

HEART VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

Food is the very best source of the nutrients your heart needs.

Your body needs a range of vitamins to function properly—but they need to come from food. Not only is there no proof of much benefit from supplements, they also often contain unnaturally high doses of limited types of nutrient compounds. There are more than 600 different types of carotenoids (a type of antioxidant), for example. You're far more likely to get these antioxidants from a varied diet than a single pill.

“Food offers a full complement of the antioxidants you need, not just selected ones in high doses,”
...Edgar R. Miller III, M.D., Ph.D.,

7 HEART-HEALTHY FOODS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE



For more on this topic visit hopkinsmedicine.org

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**ODUM
BACK^{IS}**



OUR HERITAGE, OUR CULTURE

Premium Lager

18+

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

GOLDEN GUINEA

Lager Beer



Premium Lager

18+
DRINK RESPONSIBLY



OUR HERITAGE, OUR CULTURE



The Thrills & Frills Of **IRI-IJI-OHA**

ABAM ONYERUBI 2025

By Ekebuisi Precious



The people of Abam Onyerubi, in Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State, on Friday, October 24th, 2025, trooped out in grand style to celebrate their Iri-Iji-Oha Abam Festival, a colorful display of heritage, unity, and thanksgiving. The event, which took place at the Abam High School Field, drew an impressive crowd and full participation from the Abam Onyerubi Ancestral Kindred Communities across Igboland founded by the legendary Abam warriors and explorers of old.

The festival ground was a breathtaking spectacle of colors, sounds, and movement. From the fearsome Atu Mkpi of Idima to the majestic Ekpe masquerades from Ndi Oru in Ikwuano and Ndi Oji Abam, every performance echoed the ancestral strength and artistic depth of Abam culture. The Ite-Igbo troupe from Ozu Abam and the War Dance of Amuru Abam added further energy and excitement, showcasing the community's rich variety of traditional performances.

It was indeed a harvest of talent; singers, drummers, dancers, instrumentalists, and artists all contributing to the rhythm and beauty of the day.

Earlier in the morning, the Abam High Chiefs, led by His Royal Majesty, Eze Sir Ralph Ogbonna, the Onyerubi I of Ndi Oru Ancient Kingdom, performed the traditional pouring of libation at the gravesite of Onyerubi Attita Akpo, the revered patriarch and founder of Abam. This solemn rite signified respect to the ancestors and invoked blessings for the festival.



In his welcome address, the President of the Abam Development Union, Chief Okere Kalu, traced the deep roots of the New Yam Festival in Abam tradition.

"The Iri-Ji, or New Yam Festival, has for centuries stood as a sacred and unifying celebration of life, harvest, and heritage across Igboland. But in Abam, it takes on an even greater significance, it brings together all communities of Onyerubi Attita Akpo's lineage in one grand festival of gratitude and pride."

Chief Okere emphasized that the 2025 edition was more than a feast, it was "a mirror of identity and pride."

"The Iri-Ji-Oha Abam Festival is the heartbeat of our people. Every dance step, every drumbeat, every masquerade tells the story of our past, our resilience, and our shared future. It is a celebration of the land that sustains us, of yam; the king of crops and of the enduring spirit of Abam Onyerubi."

He further highlighted the festival's role as a platform for cultural promotion and community development, reaffirming that Abam remains "a people deeply rooted in tradition, yet forward-looking in progress."

In his goodwill message, His Royal Majesty, Eze Sir Ralph Ogbonna, commended the unity and collaboration among the Onyerubi Attita Ancestral Kindred.

He gave a historical insight into the origins of Abam settlements:

"In the era of 'Occupation by Conquest,' our forebears—

THE THRILLS AND FRILLS OF IRI-IJI-OHA ABAM ONYERUBI 2025



"Onyerubi and his brother Udumeze Attita Akpo joined forces with warriors from Abam, Ohafia, and Idima, as well as the Ume Dynasty of Ndi Aworo, to reclaim and settle territories now known as Ikwuano. Their courage earned them not just the right to dwell but to lead and protect the land. Through time, they integrated, multiplied, and shaped the socio-cultural identity of the present Ikwuano people."

He noted that the warriors brought with them their enduring traditions, Kamalu Agbatuzo, Ekpe, and other customs that still thrive today.

Representing the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, Chief Matthew Ekwurube, the Honourable Commissioner for Culture, Arts, and Creative Economy, praised the Abam Onyerubi people for their cultural preservation and community spirit.

He remarked that "culture is the foundation of a people's identity" and urged them to continue upholding their traditions. Chief Ekwurube also revealed that the state government is taking deliberate steps to revitalize heritage and tourism sites across Abia State, including those in Abam Onyerubi.

In his own remarks, the Chairman of the Occasion, Professor Kenneth Kalu, who also serves as the Secretary to the Abia State Government, lauded the community for their unity and hospitality. He commended their continued collaboration with the state government and recalled several ongoing and completed developmental projects within the region.

The event was graced by an impressive lineup of dignitaries, government officials, traditional rulers, and community leaders from across Abam and beyond. Notable attendees included: HRM Eze (Dr.) Otuwa Emmanuel Nkwo, Eze of Awa Amaoba Ime Amamba Autonomous Community; Dr. John Egbuta, former President General of Abam Development Union; Major Sir Awa Akobundu (Rtd.); High Chief Ugochukwu Abali (Udumeze); Chief Ije Nkele; Hon. Acho Obioma; Chief David Ogba Onuoha; Hon. Ibe Okwara; Hon. Uche Okoro; Mr. Chinedu Ekeke; Engr. Etolue; Mazi Chimereze Okigbo; Hon. Agwu U. Agwu; Capt. Chibuikwe Usim; Mazi Nnadozie Usim; Hon. Wisdom Ogbonna; Chief Egeonu Awa Ugonta (Obu Ekpe); Chief Uchechi Agomoh; Chief Collins Agomoh; Chief Nkpoku Onyebuchi (Opi Udo); Chief Mrs. Chibuzor Akoma; Chief Ugochukwu Okoronta; and Chief Monday Ebila, among others.

The 2025 Iri-Iji-Oha Abam Festival will long be remembered as a celebration of unity, cultural splendor, ancestral pride, a vivid reminder that the spirit of Abam Onyerubi remains alive, strong, and shining brightly for generations to come.



THE THRILLS AND FRILLS OF IRI-IJI-OHA ABAM ONYERUBI 2025

THE THRILLS AND FRILLS OF **IRI-IJI-OHA ABAM ONYERUBI 2025**



ABIA DIASPORA COMMISSION VISITS AKANU OHAFIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



The Abia State Diaspora Commission has paid an official visit to Akanu Ohafia International School, a citadel of learning established 10 years ago by Chief Uduma Idika Uduma, an Australia-based indigene of Abia State.

The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, Rev. Annie Onu, who led the delegation, expressed satisfaction with the operations of the school. She reaffirmed the commitment of the Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, to supporting the school, particularly in enhancing its capacity to provide technical education that will make students self-reliant, competitive and future employers of labour.

According to her, the education-friendly governor is focused on raising students equipped with hands-on skills in various aspects of auto-engineering.

In her response, the Coordinator of the school, Lolo Uduma Idika Uduma, thanked the Commission for the visit and

lauded Governor Otti for his visionary leadership, which she said has transformed Abia State within a short period. She appealed for the construction of the road leading to the school to ease movement for students, staff and visitors.

Earlier, the Abia State Diaspora Commission paid homage to the Eze Ogo of Akanu Ohafia, Eze Mba Okereke, who reminisced on the establishment of the school. The traditional ruler recounted how Chief Uduma acquired the land, built and equipped the school, and provided buses for transporting the students.

Presently, the pioneer students of the school have completed their Junior Secondary education and are now in Senior Secondary School. The school provides its students with essentials including uniforms, sandals, textbooks, notebooks, pens, bags, and meals.

The visit had in attendance members of the royal cabinet as well as top officials of the Abia State Diaspora Commission.

AMOBI OGAH

REELS OUT

Empowerment PACKAGE FOR CONSTITUENTS

By: Okereke Kate



The Member representing Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Amobi Godwin Ogah, has marked his two years in office with a massive empowerment programme, distributing cars, tricycles, sewing machines, freezers, motorcycles, trucks and other livelihood-support items to constituents.

The gesture, he said, is aimed at accelerating the socio-economic level of his people, while assuring them that more benefits are on the way.

Speaking at the second edition of his empowerment programme held at the Onuaku Primary School Field, Uturu, Abia State, Ogah said the initiative was motivated by the love and support he received from the constituency since his election.

According to him, the essence of the empowerment was to boost the economic and social emancipation of his constituents. "The day I was declared winner of the House of Representatives election for Isuikwuato/Umunneochi, I was overwhelmed by the love my people showed me. I am planning that before next year, every ward in my constituency will have a tractor so our people can go to the farm easily".

Ogah commended Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, for delivering dividends of democracy to Abians, describing him as a visionary leader whose actions speak for themselves. He appreciated the Governor's support and the synergy between them, citing the payment of long-standing salary arrears, improved welfare for traditional rulers and restoration of security in his constituency as clear indicators of people-centered governance.

Assuring that Governor Otti would receive 100 percent support from Isuikwuato/Umunneochi in the next general election, Ogah stressed that leadership is a call to service, not self-aggrandizement. He urged other elected officials to continue supporting the Governor in transforming Abia State.

The federal lawmaker also highlighted his legislative contributions, noting that he has attracted several projects to

his constituency. He appealed to beneficiaries of the empowerment items to make good use of them and resist the temptation to sell them.

Representing Governor Otti at the event, the Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Kenneth Kalu, praised Ogah for his outstanding representation, describing the empowerment initiative as the true definition of leadership.

He urged the constituents to sustain their support for Ogah.

Similarly, the Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriation, Rt. Hon. Abubakar Kabir Abubakar, represented by Rt. Hon. Mark Essien, described Ogah as one of the best performing lawmakers in the 10th National Assembly. He called on constituents to acknowledge his hard work and ensure he returns for a second term.

Meanwhile, the Member representing Isialangwa North/South Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Ginger Onwusibe, who attended to show solidarity, said he came to celebrate with his friend and brother and to tell the people of Isuikwuato/Umunneochi that Ogah deserves another term.

In his homily, the Methodist Bishop of Isuikwuato Diocese, Rt. Rev. Dr. O. C. Chiemeka, commended Ogah for empowering his people. He urged beneficiaries to make judicious use of the items and continue supporting the lawmaker.

"If one can take care of what belongs to another, tomorrow he will receive his own. What you are getting today is a trial; if you use it well, God will give you more", he said.

The Cleric added that Ogah must go for a second tenure because he has worked for it.

Highlight of the event was the distribution of the empowerment items to various beneficiaries.

Reacting, some beneficiaries who spoke with our reporter, appreciated the Hon Ogah for feeling the pulse of the people, adding that the items would go a long way in changing their lives and as well, help alleviate the source of livelihood.

AMOBIOGAH REELS OUT ₦1 Billion

EMPOWERMENT PACKAGE
FOR CONSTITUENTS



Excellence As Policy: Governor Otti's Quiet Cultural Revolution in Abia

By: Dr. Ebere Uzoukwa



Leadership is often judged by policies, projects, and political outcomes. Yet, the most enduring leaders are those who shape values and redefine what a society chooses to celebrate. In Abia State, Governor Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, is quietly doing just that, building a culture where excellence is recognised, legacy is honoured, and integrity is elevated as a public virtue.

Beyond roads, schools, and economic reforms, the Governor has introduced a subtler but far-reaching form of governance: the deliberate celebration of Abians whose personal achievements have brought honour and positive recognition to the state. These acts are not mere gestures of goodwill. They are statements of principle, clear signals that Abia remembers its own and values meaningful contribution.

In recent times, Governor Otti has publicly celebrated distinguished Abians, often marking milestone birthdays as moments of gratitude and collective pride. By honouring achievers while they are still alive and active, the administration restores dignity to success and challenges the long-standing culture of posthumous recognition.

The celebration of music maestro Paulson Kalu and legendary highlife icon Bright Chimezie at 65 exemplifies this philosophy. Their decades of artistic excellence have projected Abia's cultural identity far beyond Nigeria's borders. Recognising such icons in real time affirms the power of discipline, creativity, and perseverance and sends a powerful message that excellence is visible and valued.

This culture of honour reflects Governor Otti's own life story. A successful banker and first-class economist, his

journey is anchored in hard work, consistency, and professional excellence. By recognising achievers across sectors; music, business, politics, public service, and entrepreneurship, he reinforces a simple truth: success is earned, merit matters, and mediocrity has no reward system in a progressive society.

For young people in Abia, this approach carries profound significance. It communicates hope. It teaches that effort is not wasted, integrity counts, and excellence will one day be acknowledged. In celebrating achievers, the Governor is mentoring a generation without speeches—using example as policy.

More broadly, this philosophy strengthens the bond between individual success and collective progress. When Abians succeed with integrity, the entire state rises in dignity and reputation. The recognition of figures such as Senator Chris Adighije, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe, Mazi Sam Oluabunwa, Paulson Kalu, and Bright Chimezie demonstrates that excellence cuts across generations and professions but is always rooted in impact.

Ultimately, Governor Otti's celebration of excellence is both a moral compass and a governance strategy. By institutionalising honour and merit, he is reshaping societal values and redefining what it means to succeed in Abia State.

In God's Own State, this renewed culture sends a clear signal about the future, one where hard work is respected, legacy is preserved, and excellence is not ignored. Through this quiet but deliberate leadership style, Governor Alex Chioma Otti is inspiring Abians to rise, achieve, and live lives worthy of honour.

Excellence As Policy: Governor Otti's Quiet Cultural Revolution in Abia

ICONIC MUSIC LEGEND

Dr. Sir Paulson Kalu @80



Excellence As Policy: Governor Otti's Quiet Cultural Revolution in Abia

ZIGIMA

AFRICAN STYLE

Sir Bright Chimezie @ **65**



SSG'S OFFICE HOSTS FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS WITH *Carols*



Comrade Nkechi Nnaemeka Isaac, coordinator of the SSG's Fellowship Prayer Group, thanked God for His protection and faithfulness and encouraged everyone to continue trusting in Him.

The chairman of the planning committee, Mr. Uma Ibem, gave the vote of thanks. He appreciated the SSG for his support and thanked the staff, management, and all dignitaries for making the event successful.

The nine lessons were read by important officials such as the Chief of Staff to the

Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba; Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Prof. Uche Eme-Uche; Commissioner for Works, Engr. Don Otumchere Otti; Permanent Secretary of the SSG's Office, Dr. Godwin Okezu; and the Rector of Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba, Dr. Christopher Okoro, among others.

The event also featured special musical performances by the Rechobath Group and was attended by commissioners, permanent secretaries, senior advisers to the Governor, members of the clergy, and many other dignitaries.

P I C T O R I A L S
Festival of Nine Lessons With Carols



P I C T O R I A L S **Festival of Nine Lessons With Carols**



ANKARA TWO-PIECE OUTFIT IDEAS FOR WOMEN

Fashion
With Sandra Chibuike

Two-piece outfits—also known as co-ord sets—are stylish, comfortable, and incredibly versatile. Whether for everyday wear, church programs, events, or casual outings, they help every woman look polished with minimal effort.

What Are Two-Piece Outfits?: A two-piece outfit is a matching top and bottom made from the same fabric, pattern, or color. Because the pieces are coordinated, the look appears intentional and put-together instantly.



Why Women Love Two-Piece Outfits

- ✓ Effortlessly Stylish: Instantly coordinated without stress.
- ✓ Versatile: Wear together or mix each piece with other wardrobe items.
- ✓ Comfortable: Often made with light, breathable, stretchy fabrics.
- ✓ Flattering for All Body Types: Available in many cuts and silhouettes.

Common Types of Two-Piece Outfits

- 1. Skirt & Top Sets**
Pencil skirt + blouse (great for church or office)
Flared skirt + fitted top (feminine and flattering)
- 2. Trouser & Top Sets**
Wide-leg pants + loose top (classy and elegant)
Fitted trousers + kimono jacket (modern and chic)
- 3. Shorts & Top Sets**
Perfect for casual outings, errands, and holidays.

4. Ankara Two-Piece Sets

Bold, colorful, and ideal for African events, church, and celebrations.

5. Loungewear Sets

Soft, comfy fabrics for relaxed daily wear.

Focus: Ankara Two-Piece Outfits

Ankara two-piece sets stand out for their bold patterns, rich colors, and cultural beauty. They flatter all body types and work perfectly for almost any occasion.



How to Choose the Right Ankara Two-Piece Outfit

✓ Consider the Occasion

Church/Formal: Midi skirts, wide-leg trousers, modest tops

Casual Outings: Light fabrics, shorts, simple tops

Parties: Bold colors, fitted and stylish designs

✓ Choose the Right Fabric

Cotton: Breathable and comfortable

Silk/Satin: Elegant and smooth

Linen: Light and classy

Polyester/Stretch: Flexible and comfy

✓ Pick Flattering Colors

Neutrals for elegance

Bold colors for attention

Pastels for a soft, feminine look

✓ Ensure Proper Fit

High-waisted bottoms flatter most body shapes and create a chic silhouette.

How to Style Your Ankara Two-Piece Outfits

- Add simple, elegant jewelry
- Wear classy heels or sandals
- Carry a structured handbag
- Throw on a kimono or blazer for modesty
- Keep makeup soft and neat for a refined finish

Benefits of Ankara Two-Piece Outfits

- Saves time when dressing
- Makes you look intentional and classy
- Easy to dress up or down
- Works for all ages
- Simple to accessorize
- Flattering for every body type

You can never go wrong with an Ankara two-piece outfit. It fits almost every occasion—except when a strictly corporate dress code is required.

ASCETA HOLDS 2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SHOWCASES LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS,

By Ekebuisi Precious



Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu has showcased an array of locally produced goods as it held its 2025 Christmas celebration themed "Christmas in ASCETA: Celebrating Love, Light and Learning."

The colourful event, held at the institution's tennis court, (ASCETA) on December 11, 2025, blended festive performances with goodwill messages and highlighted the college's growing strides in innovation and internally generated revenue.

In her opening address, the Provost, Prof. I. O. Eluwa, described the celebration as an opportunity for the ASCETA community to reflect on the values that define the institution. The values of compassion, unity, knowledge and service.

She said the annual event continues to strengthen the college's sense of purpose while fostering an environment where learning thrives.

"It is my honour and delight to welcome you all to this year's edition of Christmas in ASCETA," she said, reaffirming the institution's commitment to nurturing talent, promoting excellence and driving innovation across its programmes.

Prof. Eluwa expressed deep appreciation to the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, for his "immeasurable support and financial approval," which she said has significantly enhanced the institution's developmental efforts.

She also acknowledged the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Prof. Uche Eme Uche; the Rector of Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Dr. C. K. Okoro; the ASCETA Governing Council; and the traditional ruler of Arochukwu Kingdom, His Eminence Dr. Eberechukwu Oji, the Eze Aro, for their continued support.

Representing the Eze Aro, Eze Ibom Isii lauded the Provost for her transformative leadership, noting that her efforts were evident in the growing progress recorded at ASCETA. He also thanked Governor Otti for prioritizing education and for his contributions to the development of the Arochukwu community.

One of the major highlights of the celebration was the official unveiling of ASCETA-produced palm oil, vegetables, bags and popcorn.

The Provost explained that when she assumed office, the institution had no functional source of internally generated revenue, prompting a renewed focus on agriculture and creative enterprise.

"The land is green," she said, noting that all products on display were cultivated, processed or crafted within the institution. The unveiling was performed by Eze Ibom Isii on behalf of the Arochukwu Kingdom, ASCETA and the government of Abia State.

In separate goodwill messages, the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, represented by Mrs. Anya Grace Mba, described the event as "an awesome celebration," applauding the management for putting together a well-organized programme. Similarly, the Rector of Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, represented by Dr. Ezechi Onyerionwu, applauded the growing transformation within ASCETA, describing the celebration as evidence of the institution's steady progress.

The event also featured vibrant cultural and musical performances by ASCETA students as well as pupils from the institution's primary and secondary school sections. Awards were presented to outstanding performers and departments, with the School of Vocational Studies and Technical Education emerging overall winner.

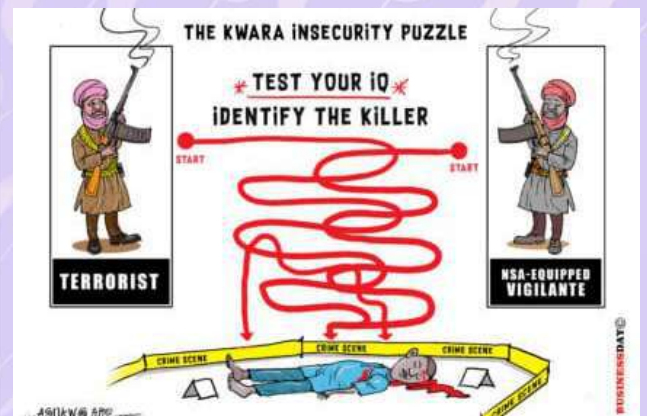
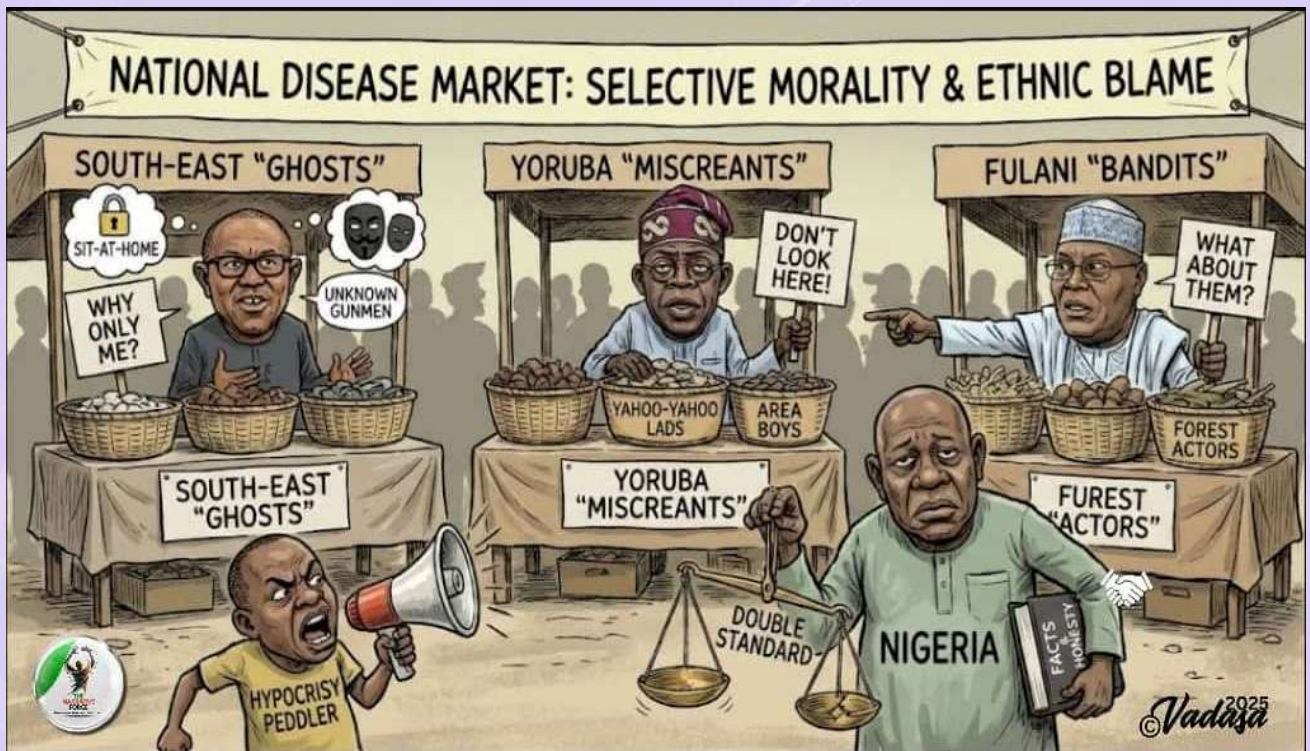
Chairman of the Planning Committee, Ogbonna Emmanuel C., expressed gratitude to his team, the Provost and attendees for their contributions to the success of the event. The ceremony was brought to a close with a prayer offered by Dr. Usuka E. Isaac, who prayed for journey mercies for all participants.

Dignitaries at the event included; General Manager of the Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation; Mazi Jones Nnanna Ike, Chairman of ASCETA Council; Dr. Joe Emerson, representative of Arochukwu Local Government Area (LGA), among others.

ASCETA HOLDS 2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SHOWCASES LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS,

ASCETA HOLDS 2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SHOWCASES LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS,





Elegance Redefined:

The Timeless Habits Of A Classy Woman

Fashion
With Sandra Chibuike

Elegance is more than beauty — it is a lifestyle, a presence, a way of being. It reflects in how you speak, move, dress, and how you treat the people around you.

In this edition, we explore the habits that protect a woman's grace, poise, and dignity, especially in public. These principles apply to every woman who desires to carry herself with confidence, class, and intention.



1. SPEAK CALMLY AND GENTLY

A truly elegant woman never rushes her words or raises her voice without reason.

She speaks with:

clarity
calmness
confidence

Tip: Pause before you respond. Thoughtfulness is a mark of class.

2. MAINTAIN GOOD POSTURE

Stand tall. Keep your shoulders relaxed and your chin slightly raised.

Your posture alone can communicate confidence, strength, and beauty.

3. WALK WITH PURPOSE

No rushing, dragging your feet, or frantic movements.

Take smooth, intentional steps. Grace is in consistency.

4. DRESS NEATLY AND APPROPRIATELY

Elegance is not about expensive clothes — it is about intentional dressing.

Choose:

Clean, well-fitting outfits
Colors that flatter your skin
Styles suitable for the occasion
Simplicity is powerful. Less is more.

5. PRACTICE POLISHED MANNERS

"Please," "Thank you," "Excuse me," "I'm sorry."

Kind greetings and respectful eye contact elevate your presence instantly.

6. CONTROL YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Avoid:

Eye-rolling
Unnecessary frowning
Exaggerated reactions

A soft, composed expression communicates self-control and elegance.

7. BE KIND, NOT LOUD

Elegant women don't chase attention — their kindness draws it naturally.

Be warm, gentle, patient, and considerate.

8. KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK

Elegance is self-control.

Avoid public outbursts, arguments, or dramatic reactions.

If you're upset, excuse yourself gracefully.

9. BE PRIVATE

A classy woman understands boundaries.

She does not overshare or broadcast every detail of her life.

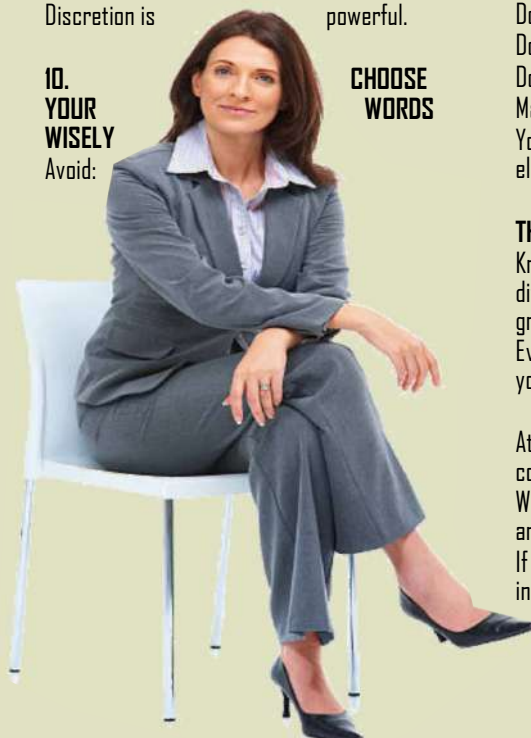
Not every personal matter belongs on social media.

Discretion is powerful.

10. YOUR WISELY

Avoid:

CHOOSE WORDS



Gossip

Vulgar language

Excessive complaining

Unnecessary conversations

A refined woman speaks to add value, not to fill silence.

Her words uplift, inspire, and leave a positive impression.

11. BE CONFIDENT, NOT ARROGANT

Confidence is quiet.

Arrogance is loud.

Move with the assurance of who you are—no need to prove yourself.

Allow people to discover your glow naturally.

12. CULTIVATE INNER PEACE

Nothing makes a woman more elegant than a calm spirit.

Pray, meditate, journal—whatever helps you stay centered.

Inner peace flows outward.

13. BE ELEGANT ONLINE TOO

Your digital presence speaks for you.

A classy woman:

Doesn't insult others online

Doesn't beg for attention

Doesn't post embarrassing or desperate content

Maintains dignity even on social media

Your online behavior is part of your real-world elegance.

THE FINAL NOTE

Knowing how to carry yourself with class is different from living it daily. But with practice, grace becomes natural.

Everything—from the way you speak to the way you treat people—can be cultivated intentionally.

At first, it may feel unfamiliar, but stay consistent.

With time, what you practice becomes who you are.

If the change benefits you and everyone you influence, then it's worth embracing.

The First Abia State Tertiary Education Sports Fiesta



By Joseph Jacob

"...that vision, engaging our tertiary institutions as a vital part of our sports development ecosystem."

The 13 tertiary institutions participating in the five-day event are: Gregory University Utur; Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukwu; Amadeus University; Spiritan University; Rhema University; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike; and Abia State College of Nursing Sciences.

Others include Madonna College of Health Technology; Federal College of Education, Ofoeme; Nigerian British University; Abia State University, Utur; and St. Anthony College of Nursing Sciences, Aba.

and St. Anthony College of Nursing Sciences, Aba.

They will compete for glory in 24 sports, including athletics, judo, scrabble, table tennis, taekwondo, and football.

Highlights of the opening ceremony included a march-past by the participating teams, lighting of the competition's torch, calisthenics display by students of Abayi Girls' Secondary School, Aba, and the oath-taking by representatives of the participants and officials.

Unity Cup 2025 Kicks Off in Umuagu

By Okechukwu Ubani



The Umuahia Unity Cup 2025, sponsored by Chief Dr. Ikechukwu Samuel Emelandu, Akuruo Uno I of Umuagu Autonomous Community, Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State, officially kicked off on Sunday, 21 December 2025, amid excitement, fanfare, and strong community participation that reflected the significance of the event.

The tournament is being held in loving remembrance of his late father, Chief Godwin N. Emelandu, a foremost educationist and highly respected community leader who believed strongly in unity, youth development, and the use of sports as a powerful tool for social cohesion and character building.

Designed to promote peace, unity, and talent development among youths in Umuagu and neighbouring communities, the competition attracted community leaders, youths, football fans, and traditional rulers, including the Eze of Umuagu, His Royal Highness Eze Engr. John Amaghereonu (Ezeomah Agu II), who witnessed the colourful opening ceremony and first match of the tournament.

The annual football competition, which will run until 31 December 2025, drew a large crowd of football lovers from within and outside the community. The opening ceremony was lively and colourful, marked by cultural displays, high spirits from supporters, and visible enthusiasm from players, coaches, and match officials.

Community elders, youths, coaches, players, and fans were all present, underscoring the unifying essence of the Unity Cup.

Speaking at the event, His Royal Highness Eze Engr. John Amaghereonu described the tournament as a worthy tribute to the late Chief Godwin N. Emelandu, whom he said was widely known for his passion for education, youth empowerment, and community development through sports. He recalled that both the sponsor and his late father attended Umuagu Central School, Ohuhu, where their love for football was nurtured and actively expressed on the field.

Also speaking, High Chief Oliver Anukwe, Umuule autonomous Community, Umuahia North LGA, a respected leader in Umuagu, explained that the



tournament was deliberately organised by Chief Dr. Ikechukwu Samuel Emelandu, was to preserve and sustain his father's legacy.

According to him, the sponsor has consistently used football as a means of bringing people together, nurturing local talents, and inspiring the younger generation to embrace discipline, teamwork, and excellence.

Delivering the opening speech on behalf of the sponsor, High Chief Anukwe warmly welcomed elders, players, coaches, match officials, and guests to the Emelandu Unity Cup 2025. He described the late Chief Godwin N. Emelandu as a man who saw football not merely as a game, but as a platform for teaching values such as fair play, perseverance, respect, and unity. He noted that true success, according to the late Chief, lies not only in winning matches but in the lessons learned and friendships formed along the way.

The football action lived up to expectations as Team Umukaonu edged Team Nbaguro 1-0 in the opening match, setting an exciting tone for the rest of the tournament. Several matches are scheduled in the coming days, with organisers hopeful that the competition will help discover and nurture young football talents within the community.

Beyond the football pitch, the Unity Cup also reflected a deeper spirit of compassion and giving back. In a related gesture, Chief Dr. Ikechukwu Samuel Emelandu distributed Christmas rice and other essential food items to Aguebi women in Umuagu village. The women expressed heartfelt gratitude, describing the gesture as timely and uplifting, especially during the festive season.

This humanitarian act further demonstrated the sponsor's commitment not only to sports and youth development but also to supporting the less privileged and strengthening communal bonds.

More than just a football tournament, the Umuagu Unity Cup 2025 stands as a celebration of remembrance, service, and community spirit. As the competition progresses, it is expected to foster unity, inspire hope among young people, and keep alive the enduring legacy of Chief Godwin N. Emelandu; a legacy rooted in leadership, kindness, and the unifying power of sports.

Kingdom Bible College Graduates 368 Ministers,

By Favour Okorie

Empowers Them With Skills



Excitement and jubilation filled the air as the Kingdom Bible College of the Word graduated 368 ministers at its 2025 Newbreed Ministership ceremony, held at the Church Auditorium in Abam-Onyerubi, Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State.

Addressing the gathering, the Registrar of the College, Reverend Dr. Emmanuel Ukoha, said the institution is committed to raising a new generation of Kingdom men—gospel ministers who are spiritually grounded, professionally trained, and equipped with practical life skills to serve God beyond human limitations.

According to Rev. Dr. Ukoha, the Newbreed ministers are trained in the pattern of the Apostles and Prophets, with a strong emphasis on independence and self-sustainability.

According to him, "our focus is not the formation of denominational churches, we operate a fellowship-based school system centred on gospel education. Our students are enrolled into departments where they acquire relevant skills alongside ministerial training."

He disclosed that the College has so far trained and empowered 458 ministers across three batches: Batch A with 34 participants, Batch B with 56, and Batch C with 368 graduates. He described the achievement as a clear testament to the institution's mission of raising spiritually sound ministers for the end-time harvest.

The Registrar further noted that the College offers courses in building, engineering and construction, agronomy and crop cultivation, as well as ministerial studies in the arts and sciences of the Word. He urged the graduates to deploy both their spiritual and practical skills early in life, preach the true gospel, and make meaningful impacts in society.

Speaking with journalists at the event, the Member who represented Ohafia and Arochukwu Federal Constituency at the National Assembly, Chief



Uko Nkole, attributed the success of the Newbreed Ministership programme to dedication, resilience, hard work, and commitment. He commended Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Ukoha for his unwavering support for youth development and empowerment.

Chief Nkole charged the graduates to remain mindful of the purpose of their training, stressing that self-sustaining skills serve as a safeguard against worldly lusts, unethical practices, and dependency. He encouraged them to transit from job seekers to job creators and to use their skills to sustain themselves and employ others.

Some of the graduates, in separate interviews, described Rev. Dr. Ukoha as a blessing to humanity, while also describing the training as life-changing. They cited renewed confidence, deeper understanding of their divine calling, and the acquisition of practical skills capable of transforming their lives.

The event climaxed with the presentation of certificates to the graduates, marking a significant milestone in their ministerial journey.

The organisers reaffirmed their commitment to raising Spirit-filled, mission-ready ministers and called on churches to support and recognise the vital role of young people in advancing the gospel.

The intensive programme featured teachings on biblical doctrines, evangelism, church administration, spiritual growth, and personal development, while also providing platforms for mentoring, prayers.

Kingdom Bible College Graduates 368 Ministers, Empowers Them With Skills



KINGDOM COLLEGE HOLDINGS

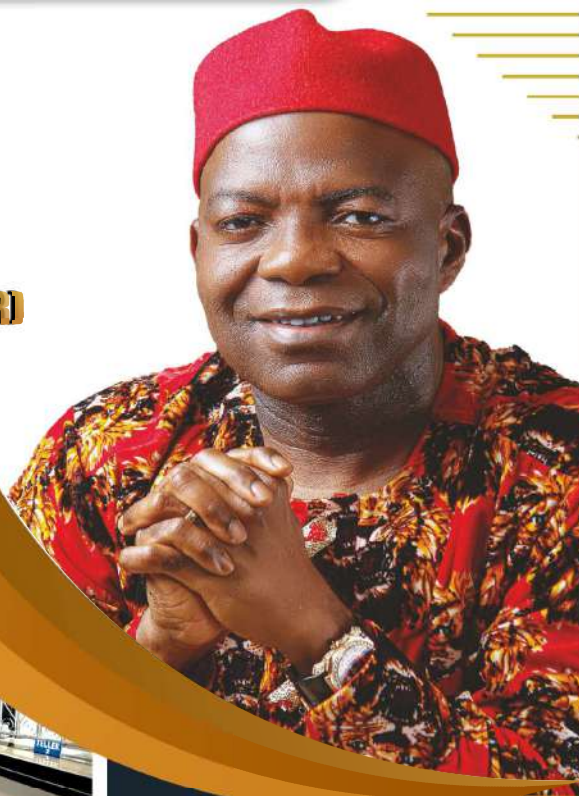
Kingdom College Road Ozu Abam, Arochukwu LGA

Abia @ 34

A BIG THANK YOU TO

HE. Dr. Alex C. OTTI (OFB)

**"CHIOMA NDI ABIA"
For Restoring
"The Abia Dream"**



Kingdom College Micro Finance Bank



KINGDOM COLLEGE: RE-ENGINEERING RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ABIA STATE



Filling Station



Palm



Poultry

Kingdom College Farms



Kingdom College Commercial Section



Cassava



Piggery



Plaza



Rice



Goat

ANDY SILK

RESORT INTERNATIONAL.

Home of Excellent Hospitality



The occasion of the celebration of Abia @ 34 Years, is an excellent opportunity to say a big thank you to your Excellency, for "Wiping Away Our Tears".

You have indeed restored the Abia Dream.

The Dream for Abia State, to be the truly number one State in Nigeria.

As a major driver in the socio-economic development of Abia State, our numerous investments in such sectors as Human Capital Development, Agriculture, Banking & Finance, Hotel and Tourism, Estate Development, Transport, Oil/Gas and other commercial activities have benefited immeasurably from your giant infrastructural strides and good government system.

We can only say,

A big thank you Sir.

Signed
Dr. Emmanuel Ukoha,
Rector.



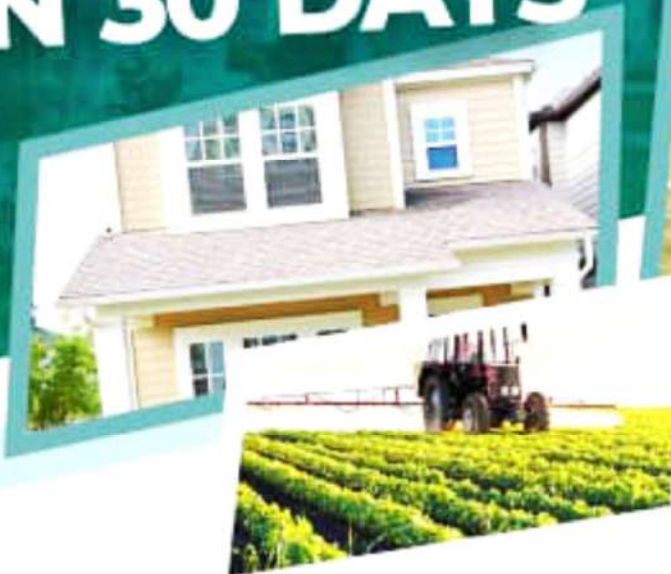
Headquarter: Kingdom College Road Ozu Abam, Arochukwu LGA, Abia State.



ABIA STATE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING MASS TITLING



GET YOUR
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IN 30 DAYS



REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

1. Current Tax Clearance Certificate from State Internal Revenue Service (for individual) and FIRS (for corporate body/ bodies)
2. Evidence of ownership (root of title e.g power of attorney)
3. 2 passports sized photos (for individual(s))
4. Certificate of Incorporation (for corporate body issued by Corporate Affairs Commission)
5. Corporate body logo
6. Police Report issued by Nigeria Police Force required for Petrol Filling Stations
7. State Fire Service Agency issues Fire Service Report required for Petrol Filling Stations
8. Approval of Ministry of Agriculture required for agricultural uses
9. Approval of Ministry of Education required for educational uses
10. Approval of Ministry of Industries required for Industrial uses
11. Evidence of fencing permit and/ or Building Plan Approval from Town Planning Authority if developed

☎ 09160002083, 09160002084, ✉ cofo@abiastate.gov.ng

FOR MORE INQUIRIES VISIT OUR ZONAL LAND OFFICES AND
TOWN PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN 17 L.G.A.

OVERLEAF